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NOV 19 1954

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Dear General Lopez:

This will acknowledge receipt of your memorandum dated 22 September, 1954, forwarding the United States Naval Radiological Defense Laboratory proposal for a radiological survey of the atolls of Rongelap and other atolls in the Marshall Islands. This proposal, dated July 6, 1954, was developed prior to the July 12 and 13 meetings here in Washington, at which time the Division of Biology and Medicine met with representatives of the Armed Forces Special Weapons Project, Naval Radiological Defense Laboratory, Naval Medical Research Institute, and the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, to discuss future studies of these atolls, both medical and radiological.

Since this meeting informal discussions concerning future plans have been held between the Division of Biology and Medicine, Dr. Donaldson of the University of Washington Applied Fisheries Laboratory, who, as you know, has a continuing program of study at the Pacific Proving Ground, and the Naval Radiological Defense Laboratory. A final discussion of the requirements for the resurvey of the atolls and the best utilization of the talents and manpower available from both groups took place October 25 at Hunter's Point.

Present were:

Dr. L. Donaldson, University of Washington, Applied Fisheries Laboratory

Naval Radiological Defense Laboratory

Dr. P. C. Tompkins, Scientific Director

Dr. E. P. Cooper, Associate Scientific Director

Chemical Technology Division

Dr. E. R. Tompkins, Head

Mr. F. Zisman, Head, Analytical Branch

Mr. E. Rinschert, Analytical Branch

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BY AUTHORITY OF DOE/OCRay Wilson 4/2/84  
REVIEWED BY DATE

B. W. Trench 3/17/86

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Naval Radiological Defense Laboratory (continued)

Bio-Medical Division

Dr. V. P. Bond, Head, Experimental Pathology Branch

Dr. S. H. Cohn, Head, Internal Toxicity Branch

Dr. R. W. Brauer, Head, Pharmacology Branch

Mr. R. P. Nicolson, Staff Assistant to Director

EnShips

Mr. V. F. Saitta, Code M8

U. S. Atomic Energy Commission

Dr. C. L. Dunham, Deputy Director, Division of Biology and Medicine

It was agreed that a task group of four scientists from NRDL would meet on or about December 6 with one representative of Dr. Donaldson's group, at Kwajalein, and proceed to make general radiological resurveys of the following atolls:

Rongelap  
Rongerik  
Ailingin-e

Bikar  
Utiwik

ending at Rongelap on or about December 12, where Dr. Donaldson, with three others of his group, would meet and join forces, making a group of nine scientists to do an intensive survey of the islands on the Rongelap atoll.

It was further agreed that specimens and samples would be collected by the joint team, as per the request of the Atomic Energy Commission, these specimens to be forwarded to the New York Operations Office and to the University of Washington Applied Fisheries Laboratory as designated; in addition the joint team would collect such samples as NRDL might require for its own purposes; that the Atomic Energy Commission would defray the expenses of providing the four NRDL personnel for the joint team; that CNO would be requested to provide logistic support for the group; that Dr. Donaldson's group be supported as in the past, but that the Atomic Energy Commission was not to be asked to defray the cost of scientific and laboratory studies which NRDL might choose to pursue on material collected by this expedition.

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A new proposal based on the October 25, 1954, discussions at Hunter's Point will soon be submitted by NMRL, superseding the July 6, 1954, proposal, a copy of which was enclosed with your memorandum of September 22, 1954. It is expected that the proposal will request the AEC to defray the expenses of the studies and collections in the Pacific, including four or five NMRL personnel, but exclusive of subsequent laboratory analyses at NMRL. The proposal necessarily will be conditioned on logistic support from the Chief of Naval Operations. It will be appreciated if your office will alert the Chief of Naval Operations of the general logistic requirement pending receipt of a specific request.

The Atomic Energy Commission will advise your office of the results of the studies and of our recommendations concerning the re-occupation of the affected atolls.

Sincerely yours,

Chairman

Honorable Herbert B. Loper  
Chairman, Military Liaison Committee  
to the Atomic Energy Commission

cc: Chairman's Ofc ✓  
Gen. Mgr. Ofc

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DUNHAM:rmk

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